(e) if so, the details of the scheme and target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) It is very difficult to arrive at an estimate about the number of illegal migrants from Bangladesh staying in the country because such migrants enter into India surreptitiously and mix with the local population due to their ethnic and lingual similarities.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These measures include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels.

(d) and (e) The matter is under active consideration.

Nefarious activities in Quasi-religious Madarsas

763. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindustan Times, dated the 16th May, 1998 in which it is stated that during the past few years there has been sharp rise in the number of quasi-religious "Madarsas" near Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take with the cooperation of the State Government to curb nefarious activities of these Madarsas keeping in view the anti-national type of education being imparted by these Madarsas?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A close watch is being kept on any undesirable activity or receipt of foreign contributions by such institutions, especially in border areas. However, main thrust of the Government is to bring the students of the Madarsas into the educational mainstream by making available the study of modern subjects in the Madarsas. Financial assistance for this purpose is also being given to Madarsas through the State Governments, after checking their antecedents.

Crimes in Trains

764. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of crimes in trains and sabotage have increased since the past few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any strategy to check crimes and cases of sabotage on railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Available information relating to the period January 1997 to February 1998 is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of the respective State Government/ UT Administration. It is, therefore, essentially for them to take such measures as are necessary to curb crime on railways and prevent incidents of sabotage. The Ministry of Railways has also suggested to the State Governments a plan of action which, inter alia, includes identification of crime prone sections of railways and gearing up security thereof and improvement of communication facilities.